

received from the Government of Maharashtra, 1906 villages in six districts are affected by drought conditions in varying degrees due to deficient rainfall during South-West Monsoon, 1996. The details of the districts and the affected villages are given below :

Sl. No.	District	No. of Affected Villages
1.	Raigarh	2
2.	Dhule	89
3.	Ahmednagar	150
4.	Bhandara	1097
5.	Chandrapur	355
6.	Gadchiroli	213
Total		1906

(c) The State Government undertakes necessary relief and rehabilitation measures in the affected areas. Government of India have released an amount of Rs. 51.15 crores as Central share of the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 1996-97 and Rs. 9.00 crores from the Central share of CRF for 1997-98 in order to enable the State Govt. to undertake necessary relief measures in the affected areas.

#### White Paper on Defence Preparedness

5691.DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHARA REDDY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the alarming reports appearing in various newspapers, journals etc. regarding India's defence preparedness;

(b) if so, the measures being taken by his Ministry to allay the fears and apprehensions of the people in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to issue a White Paper on defence preparedness; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government continuously assess possible threats to national security, and ensure the maintenance of

adequate defence preparedness.

(c) and (d) There would be no particular advantage from the publication of such a White Paper.

#### AIDS Control Programme

5692. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "World Bank fumes over inept use of AIDS" as reported in the Economic Times dated March 11, 1997;

(b) if so, the fact of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the details of the action plan work out for 1997-98 for control of AIDS in the country

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During the period ending 30th April, 1997, 1,118 HIV positive and 12 AIDS cases have been reported from Goa.

A comprehensive scheme for the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS with World Bank committed credit of US \$ 84 million was launched in September, 1992. The scheme was approved at Rs. 222.6 crores during the period 1992-97. Against this, an expenditure of Rs. 275.22 crores has been incurred as on 31-3-1997. Under the World Bank Loan agreement approximately 84% of the expenditure is eligible for disbursement. The less utilisation of the credit in dollar terms is owing to appreciation of dollar vis-a-vis INR. It is not a fact that World Bank "fumed over inept use of AIDS funds". In fact, in the latest review by the World Bank mission in November, 1996, the project performance has been rated as satisfactory.

(d) The scheme for the prevention and control of AIDS in India is being implemented as a 100% Centrally sponsored scheme in All State and Union Territories including Goa. Funds are released to them on the basis of their Annual Action Plans. A statement indicating provisional allocation of funds to States/UTs during 1997-98 is attached.